

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19

DLOS-07 COA-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 028878

R 241516Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9145

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL EXPLAINS DEMARCHE ON CHINA
BORDER NAVIGATION

REF: MOSCOW 7812

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. MFA CHINA DESK OFFICIAL ROGACHEV TOLD EMBOFF AT
SOCIAL FUNCTION MAY 23 THAT STATEMENT HANDED TO
CHINESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRS CONCERNING AMUR-USSURI
NAVIGATION (SEE REFTEL) WAS RESPONSE TO CHINESE
DEMARCHE ON SMAE SUBJECT. CHINESE HAVE EVIDENTLY
PRESENTED ANNUAL DEMAND FOR SEVERAL YEARS THAT THEY
BE ALLOWED FREE NAVIGATION THROUGH MAIN CHANNEL OF
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AMUR AND USSURI NEAR KHABAROVSK, A SEGMENT WHICH IS

UNDER SOVIET DE FACTO CONTROL AND IS CLAIMED BY USSR AS INTERNAL WATERWAY. SOVIET INSISTENCE ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR EACH VESSEL IS A LONGSTANDING POSITION, BUT ONE WHICH CHINESE HAVENOT ACCEPTED. CONSEQUENTLY, NO CHINESE SHIPS HAVE USED MAIN CHANNEL FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

2. IF ROGACHEV IS CORRECT, ONLY NEW ELEMENT IN NAVIGATION IS SOVIET PUBLICATION OF THEIR POSITION. ROGACHEV PROFESSED TO BE UNAWARE OF FACT THAT THIS POSITION NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED, AND DECLINED TO SAY WHAT SIGNIFICANCE THERE WAS IN PUBLICATION AT THIS TIME.

3. IN CONTRAST TO ROGACHEV'S INSISTENCE THAT SOVIET POSITION REPRESENTS NO CHANGE FROM PAST PRACTICE, WE NOTE AP QUOTES CHINESE SOURCES IN MOSCOW AS SAYING THAT VESSELS IN PAST NEEDED NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION BUT MERELY RAISED SIGNAL FLAG OR FLARE. IF SOVIETS HAVE INDEED STIFFENED NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, WE WOULD INTERPRET THIS AS DIPLOMATIC SQUEEZE ON PEKING TO SECURE RELEASE OF DETAINED HELICOPTER CREW.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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